

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Latin America*

Vol VI No 043

4 March 1982

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Andean Pact, CEMA Moving Toward Trade Agreement A 1

ARGENTINA

Foreign Minister Departs for Visit to Brazil B 1

Government Terms 'Routine' Cape Horn Naval Patrol B 1

Military's 'Orderly' Retreat From Politics Viewed B 1

[HERALD 28 Feb]

Journalist Sued for Criticizing Judiciary B 2

[HERALD 25 Feb]

HERALD Editorial [25 Feb] B 2

Official Comments on Trade Prospects With Africa B 3

Briefs: UN Representative Appointed; Consumption Drop; B 3

Foreign Investments Approved;

Two Oil Wells Exploited

BOLIVIA

Interior Minister Says No Political Prisoners C 1

General Padilla Invited to Top Military Meeting C 1

Briefs: Oil Production C 1

BRAZIL

Argentine Foreign Minister's Agenda During Visit D 1

Costa Mendez Arrival D 1

Leonel Brizola Comments on Reagan Policies D 2

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Mar]

President of PMDB Comments on PMDB-PP Merger D 3

CHILE

Armed Forces on Readiness After Ship Incursion E 1

'Only Routine Exercise' E 1

Orfila, Enders, Uruguay's Alvarez Visits Scheduled E 2

Labor Leader Jimenez Tortured Before Assassination E 2

Government Denies Visa to AFP Correspondent E 2

Communist Party Chairman Corvalan Visits Vienna E 2

[cross-reference]

ECUADOR

President Speaks on National Police Anniversary G 1

New Provincial Radio Station To Be Created G 1

PARAGUAY

HOY Criticizes New U.S. 'Marshall Plan' [2 Mar] H 1
President Meets Taiwanese Foreign Minister H 1

PERU

State of Emergency Declared in Ayacucho J 1
More on Jail Attack J 1

PANAMA

Royo Announces Major National Guard Changes N 1
Further Royo Remarks N 1
Guard Troops in Garrison N 2
Paredes Statement N 2
Promotions, Transfers N 3
Further Paredes Comments N 4

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

FMLN, FDR Accept Lopez Portillo Peace Proposal P 1
[Radio Venceremos]
Soviets Say U.S. Employs Chemical Weapons P 1

NICARAGUA

Jaime Wheelock Leaves for United States Visit P 1
Working Document Issued on Political Parties Law P 2
[BARRICADA 23 Feb]
Party Comments on Political Parties Bill P 7
Joint Communique Issued on PDRY Leader's Visit P 8
[Aden]

CUBA

Havana Reaction to Reagan's Speech Before OAS Q 1
Mora Herman Criticizes Reagan Leadership Q 5
Health Cooperation Agreement With Hungary Signed Q 5

ANDEAN PACT, CEMA MOVING TOWARD TRADE AGREEMENT

PA020420 Paris AFP in Spanish 2158 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota, 26 Feb [date as received] (AFP) -- The Andean group and the CEMA, the latter an organization of socialist countries, have begun to strengthen their weak and intermittent commercial relations by establishing the initial bases of an exchange which will begin to bear fruit within the next 3 months.

It was reported that the bases were established at the conclusion of a seminar held to analyze those commercial relations which, according to the experts, is very near and shows very good prospects.

"We are identifying areas which should be explored and which offer good prospects for the trade between the two groups," said Alberto Toro, an official of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute [INCOMEX].

He said that there is no agreement between the two organizations or among any of the countries which form part of the organizations.

In this respect he emphasized that the exports of the Andean group countries to CEMA countries represent only 12 percent of the total and amounts to only \$200 million of a sales potential of \$10 billion.

Toro said that first contacts between CEMA and the Andean group were made in 1978 with a courtesy visit of an Andean Pact delegation to Moscow.

On that occasion the target was only an exchange of opinions and concepts at the initiative of the INCOMEX, but the whole thing "just turned into a simple meeting and nothing more," said Toro.

The seminar which ended today was targeted at the development of programs for disseminating information and analysis of the experiences gathered from the occasional trade among the countries.

Meanwhile, Jorge Esquivel, director of the seminar, said that "This can be the beginning of a greater rapprochement between the two organizations which will result in an expansion of the bilateral relations."

Esquivel said in this respect that almost all the Andean Pact countries have the legal framework to draft cooperation agreements with the CEMA countries.

The Andean Pact is made up of Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela and CEMA of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

The Andean Pact's total foreign trade with other countries of the world in 1981 amounted to \$120 billion. Trade among the Andean Pact countries for the same year amounted to \$10 billion.

The CEMA has its headquarters in Moscow and its purpose is integration, similar to the Andean Pact, but with different political characteristics due to the systems which each member-state has.

It was reported that delegations from both organizations will establish concrete bases for the signing of an initial commercial agreement based on the results of the analysis made at the seminar.

It was said that the two organizations will sign the cooperation agreement before the end of the first half of 1982.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR VISIT TO BRAZIL

PY031232 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1122 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (TELAM) -- Today at 0715 Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez departed for Brasilia where he will carry out an official visit. The foreign minister and the chief of the Foreign Ministry's cabinet, Ambassador Gustavo Figueroa, departed from Jorge Newbery Metropolitan Airport in Buenos Aires. Costa Mendez will hold meetings with his Brazilian colleague Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro during which they will discuss bilateral issues.

GOVERNMENT TERMS 'ROUTINE' CAPE HORN NAVAL PATROL

PY040130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0021 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Mar (NA) -- San Martin Palace tonight reported that the patrol boat Gurruchaga had made "routine trips" through southern waters, but made clear that it was thus "exercising Argentine rights in keeping with the provisions of the act of Buenos Aires." The Argentine Foreign Ministry issued a communique tonight shortly before 2100 in view of remarks made in southern Chile by President Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet, who is touring the southern part of his country, charged that the patrol ship Gurruchaga had again entered Chilean jurisdictional waters. The Argentine Foreign Ministry communique states:

"The patrol ship Gurruchaga made routine trips through passages and channels up to Cape Horn on 2 and 3 March and came back today to Ushuaia.

"The ship sailed normally through that area, exercising Argentine rights in keeping with the provisions of the act of Buenos Aires."

MILITARY'S 'ORDERLY RETREAT' FROM POLITICS VIEWED

PY010021 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 28 Feb 82 pp 3, 7

["Politics and Labour" column by James Neilson: "Heading Toward an Orderly Retreat"]

[Excerpt] No military operation is harder than an orderly retreat but this is what the armed forces leaders are now engaged in. Although they have still to pack up all their impediments and announce, once again, their final withdrawal from politics, they are gradually relinquishing territory they once insisted was theirs, territory which has been immediately taken over by the politicians, part of the press, a leftwing singer, a soccer coach, and a great many other people as well. Now, however, they are approaching the difficult part: How can they return the country to constitutional rule but prevent a full investigation into the "dirty war"? If there is a solution to this extremely difficult problem, the military have yet to find it.

On Thursday they floated, via the independent news agency NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, what must be their most serious trial balloon so far. According to a "military source," the future political parties' statute will incorporate a clause conditioning a return to democracy on the parties' willingness to forget any ideas they might have about finding out what really happened to the "disappeared." Justifying this by the hopeful contention that "as the military acted against subversion to preserve freedom nobody can judge them," the "military source" repeated the refusal to issue a list of the "disappeared," this time on the grounds that none would be unimpugnable.

What the military, or at least the "military source," are after is a pact of silence with the main parties. We will give you democracy if you promise not to look too closely into our recent behaviour. This offer -- which the military could, of course, disown -- would probably have been willingly accepted by the politicians a couple of years ago when public opinion showed little interest in the "dirty war" and the military regime looked far more solid than it does today. Now, however, they are of two minds. On the one hand they do not want to do anything that might look dishonourable, on the other they realize that unless they cooperate with the regime in overcoming this very bulky obstacle elections will be delayed and, even after they have been held, the issue of the "disappeared" could, if it got too hot, inspire military uprisings.

JOURNALIST SUED FOR CRITICIZING JUDICIARY

PY261348 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 25 Feb 82 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA) -- Former Judge Mario Oderigo has filed a lawsuit against LA PRENSA writer Manfred Schoenfeld because of an article in which the journalist criticized the attitude of the judiciary regarding human rights violations in Argentina. One of the paragraphs in a Schoenfeld article, published on Monday, charged there were rumors some judges attended torture sessions.

Criticizing the judiciary's attitude, Schoenfeld said that "the rule of law does not exist in today's Argentina."

The charges filed by Oderigo could eventually implicate LA PRENSA's editor, Maximo Gainza.

HERALD Editorial

PY261420 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 25 Feb 82 p 10

[Editorial: "The Wrong May"]

[Text] A former judge has decided to do legal battle with LA PRENSA's columnist Manfred Schoenfeld because he had the temerity to criticize the judiciary's performance during the state of siege. In Schoenfeld's view the judiciary should play a far larger role in Argentine life than it has for some time and it is largely because it has been so unassertive that the law cannot really be said to reign supreme in national affairs. This is a view that is widely held and it is difficult to see how, or why, a member of the judiciary should dissent from it. Schoenfeld, after all, wants more law and not less and he wants the judiciary to become far more influential than it is now.

The former judge presumably was stung by two of Schoenfeld's charges: one, that the judiciary has been too willing for its own good to cooperate with arbitrarily employed power; the other, that the judiciary is held in such low esteem that there have been rumors that some judges have colluded with torturers, sitting complaisantly beside them while they have been going about their "work." The two charges are, by their very nature, impossible to refute. Opinions as to the energy the judiciary should have shown in asserting itself against military power will vary according to one's view of the relative importance in times of stress of the letter of the law on the one hand and the demands of expediency on the other, and also on an assessment of just how much room to maneuver the judiciary has had in this period. The statement that rumors have circulated about judges unprotestingly cooperating with torturers is equally difficult to refute: rumors are never easy to pin down and, in any case, Schoenfeld did not say he thought they had any substance in them.

This being so, the case against Schoenfeld boils down to his evident lack of admiration for the performance of many judges over the last few years. While it is understandable that a former judge should find this regrettable, it is hard to see why he thinks this justifies legal action against Schoenfeld and against his newspaper. Schoenfeld, after all, is not the only person to be unimpressed by Argentina's judiciary in recent years. The military chiefs have made no secret of their belief that the judiciary was incapable of doing a proper job when the terrorist onslaught was at its height and is equally incapable of doing one now, because otherwise they would not be so reluctant to hand untried (and in legal context unaccused) political prisoners over to the courts. Indeed, the maintenance for year after year after year of the "state of siege" is a permanent insult to the judiciary that is far more eloquent than anything Schoenfeld has ever written because it implies that the judiciary is simply inadequate.

The judiciary quite rightly is sensitive to criticism because it knows that its reputation affects public respect for the law. But unless specific and maliciously false allegations of wrongdoing are directed against them, judges should use their power not to retaliate against their critics but to ensure that in the future such criticism will be impossible to have because it will be manifestly unjustified. The judiciary has not, whatever the former judge may think, been completely immune from the ethical, intellectual, institutional, economic and political decay that has affected the nation in recent decades. Like every other sector of Argentine society -- the press included -- it has demonstrated weakness when strength was called for. It will not cure itself of its ills by punishing critics, no matter how painful their strictures may be, but like every other group, by concentrating on its own defects and striving to remedy them.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TRADE PROSPECTS WITH AFRICA

PY032212 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Under Secretary for International Economic Relations, Alfredo Esposito has returned home. Upon arriving at Ezeiza Airport, Esposito said that there are very good possibilities to Argentine products and technology -- through consulting firms -- to black Africa. He gave assurances that the Kenyan president himself had told him that those possibilities were good and that Argentina is a kind of elder brother in the agricultural field.

BRIEFS

UN REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED -- Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM) -- The executive branch has appointed Ambassador Eduardo Alejandro Roca as Argentine representative to the United Nations. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Feb 82 PY]

CONSUMPTION DROP -- (NA) -- Food consumption fell 25 percent over the last 2 months while other business sectors showed worse drops, with car sales going down 70 percent, the Chamber of Business Trade Activities (CAME) said yesterday. The chamber, which groups thousands of companies from all over the country, said it had warned of the current situation back in December, during the "first national trade convention" held in Mar del Plata on the Atlantic coast. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 3 Mar 82 p 9 PY]

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS APPROVED -- Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (AFP) -- It was learned in this capital today that the Argentine Government has approved various foreign investments totaling \$6.5 million. The largest investment will be made by the Swedish firm Sandvik with \$4 million. Other important investments are: Steyr Daimler Puch, Austrian, \$1.5 million; Mitsubishi, Japanese, \$150,000; Eurinco Investment, Luxembourg, 1.95 million marks, and Thomson-CSF Aumex, French, 1.1 million French francs. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2206 GMT 20 Feb 82 PY]

TWO OIL WELLS EXPLOITED -- Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM) -- Two oil wells are being exploited at Malal del Medio and at Los Cabaos south of the Malargue Department's administrative center, located 360 km southwest of the city of Mendoza. The Malal del Medio well has a daily output of 70 to 80 cubic meters and the Los Cabaos well of 80 to 90 cubic meters. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1205 GMT 24 Feb 82 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS NO POLITICAL PRISONERS

PY031319 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Interior Minister Romulo Mercado Garnica stated shortly after a meeting with President Celso Torrelío Villa at Government Palace that there are now no political prisoners in the country. The minister said that the five teachers who were detained in the last few days for distributing subversive pamphlets at a public site have been released after making statements. Colonel Mercado Garnica said that only those who had attacked the Toyota branch office in Santa Cruz, where they stole over \$0.5 million for subversive purposes, still remain in the hands of the intelligence organizations. He added that not a single cent has been recovered of this stolen money, since the robbers had distributed it among their various organizations. In his talk with newsmen the minister also said that three officials of the State Intelligence Board [Dirección de Inteligencia del Estado -- DIE] have been dismissed for excessive zeal and abuse of authority when they occupied the office of the La Paz bishops conference last week. The minister said that the three officials were declared guilty of that act after a hearing held at the Interior Ministry shortly after the incident. He said that for obvious reasons the names of the officials could not be disclosed to the press; since they belonged to the State Intelligence Service.

GENERAL PADILLA INVITED TO TOP MILITARY MEETING

PY031852 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1625 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] La Paz, 3 Mar (TELAM) -- It has been reported that the members of the high military command headed by Gen Celso Torrelío Villa, Bolivian president and commander in chief of the armed forces, had a meeting yesterday with former President David Padilla Arancibia at the general staff in this city to discuss topics related to the situation of the country. The meeting lasted for 2 hours and it was evening before former President Padilla Arancibia laconically stated that matters regarding the military institution as well as other affairs of the country had been discussed on the occasion. The invitation to the meeting with the high military command and the president was conveyed to the former president by Gen Simón Sejas Tordoya, chief of staff of the armed forces. None of the three commanders of the military institution wished to make statements to the press awaiting the end of the meeting. On the contrary, security measures were reinforced.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION -- The Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] has reported that it drilled 21 oil wells in 1981; 10 of the wells were productive, the rest dry. During the same period, contract firms drilled 16 wells, of which 11 were productive. Average production during 1981 was 17,236 barrels of crude per day for YPFB and 3,770 barrels for the contract companies. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Mar 82 PY]

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER'S AGENDA DURING VISIT

PY031838 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1810 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Mar (TELAM) -- The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today pointed out that the upcoming visit which Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez will make to Brazil reflects the interest of the two countries in the political dialogue and economic and industrial cooperation continuity. After pointing out that this is the first visit abroad which Foreign Minister Costa Mendez will make in his capacity as minister of the new Argentine Government, a high-ranking Itamaraty source recalled that the good relationship between the two countries was consolidated with President Joao Figueiredo's visit to Buenos Aires in May 1980 followed by the trip to Brasilia which President Jorge Rafael Videla made in August 1980. Several important agreements were signed on those two occasions. Among others the cooperation agreements in the nuclear field, hydroelectric utilization of the upper Iguazu River, cooperation in science and technology and the construction of a bridge over the Iguazu River. According to the Itamaraty spokesman, the implementation of the aforementioned agreements is promoting bilateral agreements and an increasing political rapprochement.

Regarding eventual changes in the Argentine foreign policy the high-ranking Itamaraty source pointed out that the good relations between Argentina and Brazil do not require identical positions on all international and bilateral issues in order to continue their normal path, since the intrinsic interests of each country are sufficiently strong to assure the continuity of the political dialogue and cooperation in the remaining sectors.

Foreign Minister Costa Mendez will arrive at the Brasilia military air base on Wednesday at 1030 (1330 GMT) and will hold his first working meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro at midday. That same afternoon he will be received by President Figueiredo at Planalto Palace (government house). In the evening he will attend a banquet in his honor at Itamaraty Palace. On Thursday he will visit the National Congress and the Supreme Federal Court after which he will hold another round of talks with Saraiva Guerreiro. That evening he will hold a reception for the Brazilian authorities at the Army Club and will return to his country on Friday morning.

Costa Mendez Arrival

PY032043 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1748 GMT 3 Mar 82

[By Rene Villegas]

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez expressed great sympathy for Brazil here today on his arrival for a 2-day official visit, his first trip abroad. Costa Mendez was welcomed by his Brazilian counterpart Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro at the military base at the local airport. They will meet to discuss bilateral, Latin American and world matters in conversations which will be basically political.

Costa Mendez will meet with President Joao Figueiredo in the Planalto Palace, headquarters of the Brazilian executive branch, in the afternoon.

The Argentine foreign minister, after listening to his country's national anthem and receiving military honors, talked briefly with foreign journalists saying he was pleased to be back on Brazilian territory. He said: I do not know if you are aware that I was the last Argentine foreign minister who came to Brazil on an official mission without accompanying a president. He added: This really shows you that I have great sympathy for Brazil.

Costa Mendez was foreign minister under the administration of former President Juan Carlos Onganía and in that capacity he visited Brazil on two occasions, in 1968 and 1969.

As for the purpose of his visit, he said that he hopes to strengthen an old friendship with Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and at the same time put into effect the new practice of frequent contacts among foreign ministers of the continent. The two foreign ministers held their first round of talks just after noon which, according to diplomatic sources, were not subject to an agenda; an official of the Argentine delegation said that spectacular announcements should not be expected. Spokesmen of the two foreign ministries said here that there is not a single problem pending between Brazil and Argentina and that this reflects the good bilateral relations prevailing between them.

Saraiva Guerreiro and Costa Mendez dedicated part of their meeting to exchanging points of view on the Central American situation. The sources indicated that this would be an excellent opportunity for Brazilian diplomacy to learn the real direction of Argentine foreign policy with regard to El Salvador and Central America.

The same sources recalled that recent press reports on an alleged Argentine decision to provide military aid to El Salvador and how this aid was going to be implemented created a confusing situation. Brazil has reiterated that the Salvadoran internal situation should have moderate, pluralist and democratic solution by the Salvadorans themselves without foreign intervention of any nature. Diplomatic spokesmen of the two countries indicated, however, that the apparent difference of points of view between the Argentine and Brazilian Foreign Ministries regarding this Central American country cannot be labeled as a matter of conflict within their good bilateral relations.

The Argentine foreign minister is not planning to sign any document or agreement during his visit to this capital except a press communique at the end of the confidential meetings. Costa Mendez plans to return to Buenos Aires at noon Friday.

LEONEL BRIZOLA COMMENTS ON REAGAN POLICIES

PY040104 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 7

[Text] Former Governor Leonel Brizola said in Rio de Janeiro yesterday that "the secret moves of President Reagan's administration are conspiring against the process of democratic opening in Brazil."

Leonel Brizola said that he picked up this information during his visit to the United States last week from friends mainly linked to U.S. university circles. According to the former governor of Rio Grande do Sul, the U.S. Government believes that Brazil "has deviated a bit because of its Third World inclinations." He said: "During the Carter administration the United States considered the Brazilian democratic process insufficient. But now a visitor can verify that the Reagan administration considers this process too dangerous." According to Leonel Brizola, "A conclusion has been reached that the United States would like to 'Argentinize' Brazil;" even though he could not say if this could be possible, he could not fail to say that this would be a subject which Brazilians should discuss with great interest.

He also said that he does not believe in the immediate consequences of the U.S. position, but that it should be basically a matter of greater concern for all those who are struggling for the normalization of the country. He added that he understands "Argentinization" as the alignment of Brazilian foreign policy with the policies of President Reagan.

Regarding Nicaragua, where he stopped before going to the United States, Brizola said he did not see communism but "only an effort to defend the autonomy and self-determination of a country struggling for its reconstruction." He did not visit El Salvador but finds that Brazil should pay more attention to the problems of Central America and the Caribbean "because part of our destiny is at stake in this area."

PRESIDENT OF PMDB COMMENTS ON PMDB-PP MERGER

PY031705 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Carlos Rodrigues report from Brasilia]

[Text] Bandeirantes now interviews deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB].

[Begin recording] [Question] Deputy, do you believe that the merger in some way represents a confrontation with the government?

[Answer] I am not seeking any confrontation, all I want to point out is that the government is burdening society with the cost of living, it is mortgaging the Brazilian future with foreign indebtedness, defeating the purpose of the elections by adopting electoral rules for expediency's sake [word indistinct] and affronting the political parties by saying that this merger constitutes violence against the conscience of the electorate. The elector must vote for the best candidate, no matter what party or coalition he belongs to. By banning coalitions through the November package the government is confronting or doing violence to Brazilian society. We want free elections in which the public may voice its will by voting for or against us, but free of sleight of hand, electoral manipulations, therefore, free of rules adopted for the sake of expediency. [end recording]

Leitao de Abreu, presidential civilian household chief, stated that for the time being the government is not planning any electoral reform nor any changes in the electoral system.

[Begin recording] [Question] Could there be any changes as a result of this decision made by the electoral court?

[Answer] I do not believe so, I do not believe there is time for that. The deputies themselves, including those of the Social Democratic Party, are undoubtedly willing [words indistinct] how elections will be carried out, how the system for the election of candidates will work, therefore I do not believe there will be any substantial changes in the law currently in force [words indistinct] announce some merely accidental or circumstantial changes for the 15 November elections. [end recording]

Now Bandeirantes interviews Tancredo Neves, vice president of the PMDB.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Vice President, what is the two parties main concern now?

[Answer] Our main concern is to consolidate the merger by promoting simultaneous conventions in the states and municipalities. I believe we will have no problems in holding these conventions within the same climate of cordiality, confidence and understanding as that which prevailed during our conventions at a national level. Once we have done this we will be ready to hold the conventions provided for in the electoral law to appoint our candidates for prefect and councilmen at the municipal level and candidates for state deputy, federal deputy, senator, governor and vice governor at a regional level.

[Question] Are (?you) concerned about new government reactions aimed at neutralizing the merger of the two new parties of the opposition?

[Answer] I am concerned (?about) my people. But there is a possibility that the government may make use of the tools it has at hand to adopt new measures which will strengthen even more so the [word indistinct] of the over-favored party. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES ON READINESS AFTER SHIP INCURSION

PY031455 Paris AFP in Spanish 1230 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Punta Arenas, 3 Mar (AFP) -- It was disclosed here today that Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has ordered a state of readiness among all the armed forces in the southern region near Tierra del Fuego, where Chile and Argentina maintain an old border dispute. Pinochet, who is making a long tour of the southern Chilean region, reported to the popular Santiago daily LA TERCERA that the readiness exercise had been staged to verify the level of training among the military forces and said that he had been fully satisfied with the results, since the air force, navy and army personnel were ready for action in 30 minutes. He added that this shows the high level of readiness and training of the personnel who are safeguarding Chilean sovereignty in the southern region.

According to press media, the mobilization was undertaken after it was verified that the Argentine Navy ship Francisco de Curruhaga had again violated Chilean sovereignty by navigating in the Picton Island sector, this time escorted by four other ships.

Chilean Foreign Ministry sources stated that the ship Francisco de Curruhaga, which played a role in a recent incident in southern waters, entered Chilean territorial waters off the Richmond Sound on Tuesday, accompanied this time by four torpedo boats. The sources said that Foreign Minister Rene Rojas learned about the situation and is gathering the antecedents to submit them to the Holy See which is the mediator in the century-long Chilean-Argentine border conflict in the Beagle Channel area in the south.

'Only Routine Exercise'

PY040112 Paris AFP in Spanish 2329 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 3 Mar (AFP) -- Military authorities in Santiago, Chile, has reported that the state of readiness of troops in the extreme southern region in Chile ordered by President Augusto Pinochet -- which coincides with the new incursion of an Argentine ship into Chilean territorial waters -- was only a routine exercise.

President Pinochet stated: It is true; yesterday I attended an exercise with the military chief of the region, and everything turned out perfectly well, as I could verify myself.

President Pinochet is making a visit to the southern city of Punta Arenas, 2,500 km south of the Chilean capital.

It was an exercise through which we could verify the speed of readiness and the fighting potentials of our people, but it is something we do routinely in Chile, at any given period, the president added, thus rejecting a possible relationship between this mobilization and the presence of the Argentine ship Curruhaga within Chilean jurisdictional waters near the Beagle Channel.

In Santiago, the commander in chief of the army stated that the military maneuvers carried out on Tuesday in the south are a normal and routine exercise to measure the degree of readiness, effectiveness and skill with which the personnel will react to an order from the commander.

And in this case, the order was given by the generalissimo, said Jaime Izarnotegui, chief of the Army's Foreign Relations Department.

Izarnotegui added that the state of readiness had no relation whatsoever to the incursion of the ship Curruhaga, although that incident took place when President Pinochet was in the zone.

ORFILA, ENDERS, URUGUAY'S ALVAREZ VISITS SCHEDULED

PY031850 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Alejandro Orfila, secretary general of the Organization of American States (OAS), will arrive in Chile on the 14 March. This information was disclosed by Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames who stated that Orfila's visit to Chile was part of a tour he will make to several countries.

On this occasion the foreign minister, in addition to disclosing information on Orfila's visit, stated that Chile will also be visited by Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs and between 12 and 17 April by Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez.

LABOR LEADER JIMENEZ TORTURED BEFORE ASSASSINATION

PY031848 Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 2 Mar (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the late Chilean union leader Tucapel Jimenez was brutally tortured before he was shot and stabbed on a road in the outskirts of Santiago. Jimenez, who was a moderate veteran labor leader, was kidnapped on that same day shortly after leaving his residence. He was killed just 1 week after he had proposed the establishment of a national union front to oppose the socioeconomic policy enforced by the military government.

A statement issued by a police medical source published by the newspaper LA TERCERA noted that once dominated by his captors, Jimenez was taken in his car to a road in Lampa and there brutally beaten and stabbed before being shot twice in the head while he was on his knees. Jimenez's relatives have reasserted that in the last few weeks he was being followed by unknown persons. Moreover, the Santiago newspaper EL MERCURIO reports today that according to what Jimenez had said, he was taking part in secret meetings also attended by Gen Gustavo Leigh, former member of the government military junta. Leigh was ousted from his post and from the air force command in July 1978 as a result of a dispute between President Augusto Pinochet, the navy commander and the police chief, all of whom had been his partners in the coup that took the military to power in 1973.

GOVERNMENT DENIES VISA TO AFP CORRESPONDENT

PY261250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1611 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 22 Feb (AFP) -- The head of the AFP office in Santiago, Chile, Michel Iriart, left Chile late last week after Chilean authorities refused to renew his visa. Iriart had been in Santiago, Chile for 4 years. The Interior Ministry said that there was no objection to Iriart, either morally or professionally, and that the decision not to renew his visa was made for reasons of national security. The French Ambassador to Chile, Leon Bouvier, tried several times to dissuade the Chilean Government from its decision.

COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN CORVALAN VISITS VIENNA

For a report on Chairman of Communist Party of Chile Luis Corvalan's meeting in Vienna with officials of the Austrian Communist Party, see the 1 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON NATIONAL POLICE ANNIVERSARY

PA030041 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 1621 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Speech by Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado at ceremony marking 44th anniversary of the "professionalization" of the police force; place not given -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr Vice President of the Republic, Mr President of the National Chamber of Representatives, high-ranking government and armed forces officials, commander general of the police, officers, cadets, troops, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a good occasion to remind all Ecuadoreans that services like schools, roads and hospitals depend upon something that is essential to the lives of peoples: personal security, law and order and social peace, which are the responsibility of the national civilian police. This is why on this day, when they celebrate the 44th anniversary of their creation, we must remind the people that we must do much more to properly support public security.

It is true that our country is an oasis in this violent and restless world. It is true that we can still move about freely in our country, without risk to our lives and personal security. It is also true that terrorism has not yet reached our country and that there have been only isolated acts against the security of individuals.

However, it is true that Ecuador, which has always had a tradition of freedom and liberty, could see itself threatened by forces that are already operating in other countries of this continent.

It is also true that our country, with its urgent economic and social problems, could create conditions permitting the arrival of things we do not want. If this is our situation, and the world situation is different, then we must concern ourselves with public security issues. That is why the government increased its effort by strengthening the national police when the violence in Guayaquil increased. With the cooperation of the armed forces we have been able to restore the collective security in Guayaquil demanded by its residents.

For these same reasons, we signed a decree today allowing the national police to enlist 1,000 more professionals in the public security service. [applause]

But we are aware that this alone will not solve the problem. The police must give their members security in the control of crime, the pursuit of criminals and the maintenance of public peace. Since it is necessary to have a decent hospital for the police, we are taking steps to build a hospital suitable for their needs, despite our economic limitations, which all of you know well.

For the government, the minister in charge of police, for all of us who are part of Ecuadorean democracy, attending this ceremony means celebrating an anniversary, not only of the day on which the national police were professionalized but also of the consolidation of an institution that is essential to the nation's democratic life. A society can forgive anything but chaos, disorder and anarchy. In order to prevent this, we must have, day by day, a stronger national police organization, to which I render homage. Thank you.

NEW PROVINCIAL RADIO STATION TO BE CREATED

PA030349 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] The Pichincha Provincial Council will invest 8 million sucres in the installation of a new printing press and radio station. The press has the primary task of publishing works edited in cultural meetings and the text of cultural and scientific documents. The radio station, which will be called Occidente de Pichincha, will generally serve this region and will broadcast cultural programs involving community participation. It will transmit on the 1570 kilz band assigned by the National Frequency Department.

HOY CRITICIZES NEW U.S. 'MARSHALL PLAN'

PY040014 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 2 Mar 82 p 9

[Editorial "The Reagan Plan for the Caribbean"]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has announced the implementation of a polished-up version of the old Marshall Plan to be applied to the strife-torn Central American region. In a speech he made to the Organization of American States on 24 February, the president explained at length the bases and objectives of the plan.

In the U.S. President's speech there is a basic contradiction between its rhetoric adornments of words about brotherhood and solidarity among all the nations of the hemisphere and his program directed toward a single part and not even the largest or most populous part of the continent.

It is painfully obvious that the White House has simply acted because of what it believes to be U.S. strategic interests and not, as maintained by a certain kind of tiresome diplomatic rhetoric, because of any understanding of the importance of a deep-rooted and long-term alliance with all the countries of the hemisphere.

A Marxist regime had to take over Nicaragua and a civil war had to claim thousands of lives in El Salvador and Guatemala to make the U.S. Government understand that "something had to be done." But this action is focused only on the areas currently in conflict, for a very simple reason: To preserve U.S. security.

The Reagan plan reminds us, except for slight variations, of the Alliance for Progress drawn up by Kennedy as an answer to the Cuban revolution. But the alliance had, at least in theory, the virtue of being intended for all Latin America and not for a specific region where a specific problem was being encountered.

Those plans designed to counter specific critical situations without a comprehensive and historical approach are at bottom threatened with failure, in the first place because they come too late, and secondly, because the appropriated resources are insufficient to solve the issue. These are, in brief, the major contradictions of the Reagan plan with which the United States intends to solve the Central American and Caribbean problems.

PRESIDENT MEETS TAIWANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

PY021811 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1530 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Excerpt] This morning President Stroessner met with his excellency Taiwanese Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung who arrived accompanied by his wife, Su Chung-pei, and his distinguished retinue, together with his host, Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues and Taiwanese Ambassador Meng Hsien-wang. The distinguished visitor greeted the president of state and at the same time conveyed a special message of greetings from Taiwanese President Chiang Ching-kuo.

The meeting was carried out in an atmosphere of great cordiality and served to point out the strong friendship and cooperation ties which link the Paraguayan Government and people with Taiwan.

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN AYACUCHO

PY031506 Paris AFP in Spanish 1345 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 3 Mar (AFP) -- The government has declared a state of emergency in the Department of Ayacucho, in the south central region, where early this morning terrorists killed the policemen and released 200 prisoners from jail.

According to preliminary reports reaching this capital, several persons attacked the Ayacucho jail with dynamite sticks and firearms. As a result, the jail's main gate was destroyed, two wardens were killed and several persons were injured. Before the attack, which took place early this morning, terrorist groups created confusion and panic by setting off dynamite charges near the city jail and the city hospital, where some inmates are receiving treatment.

According to some reports, the assault on the jail permitted 200 inmates, terrorists and common prisoners, to escape.

Three days ago four prisoners were killed during a massive attempt to escape, as part of an operation to spring jailed terrorists loose.

Ayacucho, 575 kilometers to the south of Lima, has for the last 2 years been the center of virulent terrorist activity. After an attack on a police station last year, a state of emergency was declared in four provinces of the Ayacucho Department.

More on Jail Attack

PY032216 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1748 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 3 Mar (TELAM) -- It has been officially confirmed that last night 200 to 250 inmates escaped from the Ayacucho prison, southeast of Lima, after a bloody assault perpetrated by nearly 150 terrorists armed with machineguns and dynamite. During the attack, two republican guards were killed and one officer and two wardens were wounded.

This information was given this morning by Justice Minister Enrique Elias Larosa, who reported that terrorist actions reveal the intention to fully disrupt the atmosphere at the prisons and that this situation has forced the government to declare a state of emergency in Ayacucho. Elias added that similar attacks had been previously and simultaneously carried out by other terrorist groups in that city, and that a captain and four civil guards were reportedly wounded.

He said that in the face of this situation 3 planes carrying 240 policemen were sent this morning in order to increase patrolling and to coordinate actions for recapturing the inmates who escaped.

The minister added that the terrorists who attacked the prison shouted "long live the armed struggle" and "long live communism" and that they blew up the prison's door with dynamite, forcing some inmates to escape, threatening them with death if they did not obey their orders.

Elias went on to say that the inmates who escaped are charged with having engaged in terrorist actions, drug trafficking and common crimes, and that police intervention prevented the escape of the other 250 inmates.

Finally, he said that no women were able to escape because they are in another sector of the prison which could not be reached by the terrorist action.

ROYO ANNOUNCES MAJOR NATIONAL GUARD CHANGES

PA031915 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1840 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes report from the Presidential Palace -- live]

[Text] In a ceremony that began at exactly 1830 GMT, President Aristides Royo informed the local and foreign press of the contents of decree No 20 of 3 March 1982, which stated: Whereas Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, commander in chief of the National Guard, has completed 26 years and 7 months' continuous service to that institution; Lt Col Armando Bellido, G-4 of the National Guard General Staff, has completed 30 years and 5 months' continuous service; Lt Col Manuel J. Arauz, national traffic director, has completed 25 years and 5 months' continuous service; and whereas, under the existing law, the previously mentioned military personnel are entitled to retirement in view of their years of service and it is the prerogative of the executive branch, according to paragraph 1, Article 164 of the constitution to appoint the chiefs and officers of the public forces in accordance with the constitution, the law and military hierarchy; it has been decreed that Col Florencio Florez Aguilar and Lt Colonels Armando Bellido and Manuel J. Arauz will retire effective today. The decree acknowledges the loyal and efficient service given to the nation by these high-ranking officials.

Another decree, No 21 issued 3 March 1982, in its single article provides for the promotion of Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard to the rank of colonel. Other promotions announced to the public and newsmen in attendance were those of Lt Col Armando Contreras to the post of chief of the general staff and Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega to the post of deputy chief of staff.

In addition to the president of the republic, who thanked the retiring officers for their services and who also announced the promotions, Colonel Paredes spoke. He expressed his gratitude to the president for the confidence given, in his words, this humble public servant. He added that the president of the republic and the country can rest assured that the National Guard will continue to do its duty with regard to the process of democratization underway in the country.

Colonel Paredes also praised Col Florencio Florez' decision to retire. He said: The moment being experienced by Colonel Florez will also come to us and when it comes, we would like to have the same strength to undergo it at the time that is opportune for the institution and the fatherland. The ceremony at the Presidential Palace ended just about 3 minutes ago.

Further Royo Remarks

PA032014 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1857 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Speech by Panamanian President Aristides Royo at the yellow room of the Presidential Palace on 3 March 1982 -- recorded]

[Text] We want to announce to the Panamanian nation that Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, commander in chief of the National Guard; Lt Col Manuel Arauz, the National Guard's traffic director; and Lt Col Armando Bellido, member of the general staff, are retiring effective today through a decree that I signed jointly with Government and Justice Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter this morning.

This decision of the presidency of the republic has been made in accordance with the provisions of Article 164, paragraph 1 of the country's political constitution and has been adopted in coordination with the General Staff of the National Guard as stated in Article 2 of this same political constitution, which states that there should be a harmonious collaboration and close relationship between the executive and other branches and the armed forces.

This is an institutional decision. It is a natural movement within the armed forces. It means that after long years of service -- according to the statutes of the National Guard and the military ranks -- there must be retirements and promotions that result in movements of personnel within the institution, as is the case in other state agencies where people are retired and promoted.

We want to take this opportunity to make two announcements. The first one: I want to announce that on behalf of the revolutionary government and the government team, I want to thank Lt Col Florencio Florez Aguilar...[corrects himself] Col Florencio Florez Aguilar and Lieutenant Colonels Bellido and Arauz for all the services that they rendered to the National Guard and the Panamanian nation with loyalty, patriotism and honor. We are thus recognizing the devoted service that these military patriots have demonstrated for more than 25 years... [corrects himself] 25 years by each one of them.

Therefore, as my second announcement, and according to the military ranks of the National Guard, we have promoted Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes to commander in chief with the rank of colonel. He will thus be the National Guard's commander in chief effective today.

We want to tell Colonel Paredes that we feel it will not be easy for him to replace a figure such as Colonel Florez and that within this sense of evolution in the National Guard, we hope that he will know how to lead the institution through honest paths. We want to ask him to watch over the people's well-being, peace and security on our isthmus and to carry out his duties, as an honorable military officer, with loyalty and efficiency.

Lt Col Armando Contreras has been promoted to deputy chief, pardon me, [corrects himself] chief of the general staff; and Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega to deputy chief of the general staff. These have been the changes. We want to again thank the military officers who are retiring for their services to the nation and ask the officers who are assuming command today to have loyalty and the clear vocation to serve their fatherland. Thank you.

Guard Troops in Garrison

PA031921 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Panama City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The National Guard was confined to its garrisons today and calm prevailed throughout the capital while changes which might affect the high command of the National Guard and President Aristides Royo's cabinet are imminent. The report that the National Guard commander in chief, Col Florencio Florez, is going to be replaced by Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes has not been officially confirmed.

Florez would reportedly be retired along with Lt Cols Armando Bellido and Manuel Antonio Arauz, directors of administration and traffic, respectively. There is talk of a coup within the guard reportedly controlled by Paredes and Lt Cols Manuel Antonio Noriega, Armando Contreras and Roberto Diaz Herrera, all connected with the high command of the intelligence services and general staff.

Paredes Statement

PA032133 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1857 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Statement by Col Ruben Dario Paredes, new Panamanian National Guard commander in chief, at the Presidential House on 3 March in Panama City -- live]

[Text] Mr President, Mr Vice President, Mr Minister of Government and Justice, Mr President of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, Mr Minister of the Presidency, members of the National Guard staff, distinguished gentlemen of the press, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I want to thank his excellency the president for the confidence that has been placed in this humble public servant. Rest assured, Mr President, that the National Guard, as with the rest of your government, will do its duty as it has always done, particularly in the period we are currently going through within the democratization process. The National Guard will be ready to defend the legally established institutions in our fatherland.

We are taking over today from our friend and colleague Colonel Florez, in accordance with a strictly professional process and an absolute commitment to history. Colonel Florez is part of this decision. Colonel Florez fulfilled his term of service, setting an example worthy of imitation. He now retires, as do Colonel Arauz and Colonel Bellido. When I say worthy of imitation, it is because in his action -- worthy of a true military man, a gentleman and a patriot -- we are easing the process of succession that should exist in all armed forces. We are offering hope to other members of the National Guard, who also deserve to be promoted and who have accumulated enough merit to aspire to higher positions. We need a National Guard as it has been to this date and perhaps an even stronger one in the future. The strongest army is not necessarily the one with the most weapons. It is the one with the highest morale. We are determined to consolidate ourselves still more, through a number of changes and promotions that are absolutely necessary.

If anyone were to ask me the reason for the accumulation of officers who were due for retirement at the peak of the pyramid of the National Guard command -- as is the case of Colonel Bellido, who has served for 30 years -- I would have to say in all honesty that during the exercise of political power, when we were accompanying our unforgettable teacher, General Torrijos, prudence required that those with more experience continue with him to the end. But time has passed, things are quiet and in our peace we have the opportunity to choose and to make changes; we have done what had to be done within the most tranquil and absolutely institutional terms, with the president of the republic and the national staff.

We all realize that the time will come when we will have to go, as Colonel Florez is doing today. When that day arrives for me, this servant will, with the same integrity as Colonel Florez, say, on behalf of the institution and the fatherland, it is time for me to go. Thank you. [applause]

Promotions, Transfers

PA032234 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2145 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] The National Guard has announced the following promotions and transfers of personnel: Promotions: Maj Angel Mina Justiniani, Maj Julian Helo (Borbua), Maj Alberto Purcell and Maj Elias Castillo have been promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Transfers: Lt Col Angel Mina Justiniani, formerly chief of the Third Military Zone with headquarters in Santiago, Veraguas Province, has become assistant chief of the National Guard Staff G-1; Lt Col Roberto Diaz Herrera has been moved from the National Guard Staff Executive Secretariat to become assistant chief of the National Guard Staff G-3; Lt Col Marcos Justines, formerly chief of the Panama Police Department, has become assistant chief of the National Guard Staff G-4; Lt Col Pedro Carlos Ayala, formerly chief supervisor of the military zones, has become assistant chief of Staff G-5; Lt Col Julian Melo (Borbua), formerly assistant chief of the Staff G-2, has become chief of the National Guard Headquarters and Staff Executive Secretariat; Lt Col Elias Castillo has been transferred from the Sixth Military Zone with headquarters in Penonome, Cocle Province, to the post of chief of the Panama Police Department; and Lt Col Cecilio Eloy Fisher, formerly assistant chief of the Staff G-5, has become chief of the National Department of Traffic and Land Transportation.

Further Paredes Comments

PA040115 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Following the announcement of the changes in the National Guard command, Col Ruben Dario Paredes, the new commander in chief, stayed at the presidential palace for over an hour to have lunch with President Aristides Royo. Upon leaving the palace, he was approached by reporters and made the following comments:

[Begin recording] [Question] Colonel Paredes, does this mean an end to your possible presidential nomination?

[Answer] It means a 180-degree turnaround. For the past few hours I have pondered the situation and I hope that this will contribute to bolstering Panamanians' faith in the National Guard, particularly in its impartiality in the upcoming 1984 elections, for we cannot be both things at the same time. There is no doubt that this changes things considerably.

[Question] Does it mean that your candidacy can be dismissed?

[Answer] I could not say so categorically, because we cannot refuse altogether to offer a service that the country may demand of us. Nevertheless, at this time I believe that I should not consider it.

[Question] Will there be any change in the National Guard in terms of its orientation toward guaranteeing the democratization of the country?

[Answer] The National Guard will continue with the process of democratization, for which it exhorts all political parties already registered and in formation to continue their plans with faith and hope, just as we shall always remain on the side of the people. We believe that the electoral tribunal must also make a great effort to create a positive image and, in fact, to guarantee the elections, for the good of the country.

[Question] Colonel, why are Colonel Florez and the other retired officers not here today?

[Answer] Colonel Florez is at his residence at this moment. When we left headquarters, Colonel Arauz was at the Transit Department offices with Colonel Fisher, the new chief of that section, discussing some administrative matters. Colonel Bellido is on vacation and should be returning to Panama on Saturday.

[Question] When will the ceremony of recognition of the National Guard take place?

[Answer] We have not yet fixed the date.

[Question] Will it be this week?

[Answer] Yes, it will probably be this week.

[Question] When will the new promotions to lieutenant colonel be announced?

[Answer] No later than 10 days hence.

[Question] Any final message for the Panamanian people?

[Answer] I am most grateful for the appointment, primarily to the country. I consider myself a privileged man today. When a man is so distinguished by the fatherland, he must do everything in his power, even to offering his life, to live up to this honor. That is how I feel at this moment.

[Question] Will the National Guard guarantee its support of the executive branch?

[Answer] Absolutely.

[Question] Who will be the new colonels?

[Answer] That is still being studied. [laughter] [end recording]

EL SALVADORFMLN, FDR ACCEPT LOPEZ PORTILLO PEACE PROPOSAL

PA031339 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Statement issued by the FSLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) in response to the peace proposal made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo on 21 February in Managua, Nicaragua; place, date not given]

[Text] 1. The concepts expressed and the proposal for peace in Central America made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo were the logical consequence of the independent international policy that his government has pursued and for which the Salvadoran people are deeply grateful.

2. The FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] express our willingness to begin peace talks without prior conditions, designed to lead to a negotiated political solution. We express our agreement with the Mexican president.

3. We accept President Lopez Portillo's proposal that his government serve as a channel for communication between the parties in conflict.

4. We ask the international community, especially the democratic governments of the world to carry out actions in support of this initiative in the interest of Central American peace and stability.

SOVIETS SAY U.S. EMPLOYS CHEMICAL WEAPONS

PA270311 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The Soviet news agency NOVOSTI has reported that the Salvadoran Army and its U.S. advisers are using chemical weapons against the guerrillas and the civil population. The air force of the Salvadoran regime, the agency added, is using a strong toxic substance to force the rebels and civilian population to abandon their refuges and become easy targets for helicopter guns. The Soviet news agency asserted that strange diseases have appeared recently in El Salvador affecting the eyes, skin and the body's motor controls, which indicates the United States is also using bacteriological weapons in that Central American country.

NICARAGUAJAIME WHELOCK LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES VISIT

PA040231 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2246 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, left today for the United States to explain "the Sandinist truth" about the relations between the two countries. Wheelock said at the Sandino Airport in Managua that his visit to the United States comes at a "difficult time, when there is a climate of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua." He said that there is a U.S. Navy warship near the Nicaraguan coasts. He said: "We regard this as reflecting an interventionist attitude."

He noted, however, that he believes that the Sandinist government should "present itself" in the United States, advocating commonsense and calm in view of the Reagan administration's "dangerous subjective attitude." Wheelock, who is one of the nine commanders of the FSLN's National Directorate, said that he is going to meet with scientists and professors, as well as with politicians, congressmen and labor and religious leaders. He said that he will also meet with business sector representatives. He stressed that he will explain to all of those U.S. sectors that the Nicaraguan revolutionary junta wants to maintain "constructive relations" with the United States based on respect for Nicaraguan sovereignty.

WORKING DOCUMENT ISSUED ON POLITICAL PARTIES LAW

PA020131 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Feb 82 p 7

[State Council advertisement: "Working Document of the Special State Council Commission Studying the Law on Political Parties" -- passages in capitals denote uppercase as published]

[Text] The special State Council Commission studying the draft law on political parties releases to the public the following working document drafted on 22 February 1982: For the special commission: Alvaro Arguello H., coordinator; Deputy Commander Rafael Solis Cerda, secretary;

"Law on Political Parties"

CONTENTS: CONSIDERING:

- I. Purpose of the Law
- II. About Political Parties (concept)
- III. Principles and Ends of Political Parties
- IV. Rights and Duties of Political Parties
- V. About the National Council of Political Parties
- VI. Organization of Political Parties
- VII. Authorization of Political Parties
- VIII. Cancellation and Suspension of Political Parties
- IX. General Provisions
- X. Provisional Provisions
- XI. Applicability of the Law

Special Commission "Law on Political Parties"

The State Council of the Republic of Nicaragua, meeting in extraordinary session No [blank space] of [blank space] 1982. "Year of Unity in the Face of Aggression." Considering:

I. That in order to strengthen the revolutionary process, it is the duty of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction to guarantee the implementation and development of DEMOCRACY, legitimately based on the people's participation and on political pluralism.

II. That the development of our legal order through the promulgation of new laws expresses the Nicaraguan people's will to advance in the INSTITUTIONALIZATION of the Sandinist peoples revolution.

III. That NATIONAL UNITY must be promoted through practical actions which lead all the political forces to assume jointly the responsibilities of RECONSTRUCTING and DEFENDING our fatherland.

IV. That, aware of the fact that we are contributing to peace in Central America, the struggle for PEACE in our fatherland necessitates the UNITED PARTICIPATION of all the democratic and patriotic forces in Nicaragua.

V. That both the fundamental statute and the statute on the rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans establish the CITIZENS' RIGHT to organize political parties or groups as well as to become members in them.

VI. That it is, therefore, necessary to establish the LEGAL FRAMEWORK providing an order for the functioning of the political parties currently in existence in this country, so that, inspired by the spirit of national unity and political pluralism, they will participate in the search for PEACE, will contribute to the NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION and will strengthen the DEFENSE OF THE FATHERLAND.

Therefore, in the exercise of its powers, it decrees the following:

"Law on Political Parties"

I. Purpose of the Law

Article 1. The present law regulates the exercise of every citizen's right to organize political parties or to take part in them and establishes for the political parties currently in existence in this country the rules regulating their constitution, organization and functioning.

This is a public order law.

II. About Political Parties

Article 2. Political parties are groups of Nicaraguans sharing an ideological affinity, who have decided to organize these parties in order to participate in the public administration for the purpose of carrying out a program that responds to the country's national development and social needs.

Article 3. Only the organizations legally recognized as political parties will enjoy the rights and guarantees established in this law and will be obliged to fulfill the duties that this law and the others currently in effect indicate.

The political parties are public law institutions.

III. Principles and Ends of Political Parties

Article 4. The fundamental principles ruling the existence and activity of the political parties are inspired on the following concepts:

- A. Democracy -- acknowledgement of the people's right to determine for themselves their social and historical destiny.
- B. Pluralism -- acknowledgement of the right to existence of the various ideological, political and social currents.
- C. Patriotism -- acknowledgement of the right to free national determination, the fatherland's independence and sovereignty and the integrity of the national territory.
- D. Economic independence -- the people's right to make use of the riches and natural resources in order to build their economic and social welfare.
- E. Anti-imperialism -- rejection and commitment to the struggle against all forms of national and social subjection of the Nicaraguan people.
- F. Anti-interventionism -- acknowledgement of the validity of the principle of non-intervention.
- G. Pacifism -- commitment to the struggle for world peace, particularly that of Central America.
- H. Anti-racism -- the rejection of all forms of racial and social discrimination.
- I. International solidarity -- support for the struggle of all peoples fighting to achieve their national and social liberation.

Article 5. The political parties will have the following ends:

- A. To participate in the state's political and administrative activities.
- B. To promote the country's economic, social, political and cultural reconstruction in behalf of the Nicaraguan people.
- C. To defend the independence, the national sovereignty and the conquests of the Sandinist peoples revolution.
- D. To promote the national unity, inspired on the principles and ends of the Sandinist peoples revolution.

Article 6. Those groups or parties seeking a return to Somoziism or advocating similar principles and ends are banned.

IV. Rights and Duties of Political Parties

Article 7. The following are the rights of the political parties:

- A. To make propaganda for their principles and programs in accordance with all of the country's laws. In addition, they will be able to use television for a given amount of time.
- B. To hold meetings and stage public demonstrations in accordance with the legal provisions currently in effect.
- C. To make constructive criticism and to propose solutions to the public administration within the framework of the law.
- D. To form alliances and groups with other political parties for both general and specific purposes.
- E. To accredit representatives to the National Council of Political Parties, which is created in the present law.
- F. To request their integration into the State Council.
- G. To participate in the elections in accordance with the laws currently in effect.
- H. To have a patrimony of their own.
- I. To have houses and offices throughout the country.

Article 8. The following are the duties of the political parties:

- A. To comply with the country's legal order.
- B. To comply with the resolutions of the National Council of Political Parties.
- C. To promote and support national unity with regard to the fulfillment of the national reconstruction tasks.
- D. To respect our people's political and social achievements.
- E. To defend the revolution against any internal or external attempt to impose a regime based on oppression and exploitation on the Nicaraguan people.
- F. To struggle for the preservation of freedom and independence in this country.
- G. To promote and motivate respect for human rights.
- H. To be responsible for the activities carried out by the alliances or groups formed with other political parties.

Article 9. Those political parties which, in accordance with the fundamental statute and its amendments, comprise the State Council will be obliged to accredit permanent representatives to it.

V. About the National Council of Political Parties

Article 10. The body in charge of implementing the present law will be the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES also is known by its acronym, CNPP. The CNPP has functional autonomy and is answerable to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

The CNPP will be formed in the following manner:

- 1. Three delegates appointed by the junta of the government of national reconstruction.
 - 2. One delegate appointed by each of the political parties.
- The CNPP members will have their respective alternate members, who will fill in for the delegates' temporary or permanent vacancies.

Article 11. The CNPP will function with two bodies:

- A. The CNPP's board of directors, which will be comprised of the three delegates of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and two delegates elected by the political parties among their representatives at the CNPP. Its role will involve both DECISIONMAKING and EXECUTION.
- The members of the board of directors will have their respective alternate members, who must be members of the CNPP. For a quorum, the presence of three members is required. In order for its agreements to be valid, the vote of the majority of its present members is required.

B. The CNPP plenum, which will be comprised of all CNPP members, and will meet on a monthly basis, convoked by the CNPP's board of directors. Its role will involve both CONSULTATION and INFORMATION. For a quorum, the presence of over half of its members is required. Its recommendations will be made by the majority of those present.

Article 12. The CNPP president will be appointed by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction from among the members of the board of directors. The president will legally represent the CNPP.

Article 13. An injunction can be filed against the CNPP's resolutions, except in cases of authorization, suspension or cancellation.

Vi. Organization of Political Parties

Article 14. Persons or groups of persons wishing to ORGANIZE a political party must obtain a permit from the CNPP to carry out the activities for such organization and meet the requirements established in this law to apply for legal status. The permit obtained from the CNPP must indicate the activities authorized thereby as well as the period of validity, which may not exceed 90 days.

Article 15. The political parties must be created by means of a public document granted in the presence of a CNPP delegate. The public document must contain the following:

- A. Name and status of the founding members.
- B. Name and symbol adopted by the party.
- C. A promise to conduct its activities in accordance with the country's laws.
- D. Political principles of the party.
- E. Operating bodies and their functions; names of members of its national board and of at least nine departmental boards and legal representatives.
- F. Method of internal election to designate the party authorities and to determine their period in office.

VII. Authorization to Political Parties.

Article 16. The political parties will be authorized and obtain their legal status by means of a decree of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, subject to a resolution from the CNPP, with which the groups must file a documented application in accordance with the requirements set forth in this law.

Article 17. In order to obtain the authorization the political parties must submit the following requirements:

- A. An application based on reasons they consider appropriate.
- B. Certified copy of the public founding documents.
- C. Number of membership.
- D. A brief statement of the party's political principles.
- E. Party platform.
- F. Bylaws and general rules governing the party's operations and internal activities.
- G. Assets of the party.
- H. All other requirements established by this law and its set of regulations.

Article 18. Upon receipt of the application fulfilling the mentioned requirements, the CNPP will certify compliance with them by means of a writ stating that the application is correct, serving notice thereof to the party concerned. The parties may appear within 3 days after notice of the writ is served to make any statements they feel are necessary.

If no objection is raised, the CNPP will issue a decision within the next 5 days.

Article 19. In the case of an objection, a 15-day period for submission of evidence will be allowed after which the CNPP will have 8 days to issue a ruling.

Article 20. Appeals against the ruling of the CNPP may be filed with the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction within the next 5 days of service of notice. The decision will become final at the expiration of this term and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction will order that the respective decree be published in LA GACETA, the official daily newspaper.

Should an appeal be filed, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction will return a ruling within 15 days, confirming or rectifying such decision, which will become final upon the respective publication in LA GACETA, the official daily newspaper.

VIII. Cancellation and Suspension of Political Parties

Article 21. The SUSPENSION of a political party prohibits its operation. The CANCELLATION dissolves the political party.

Article 22. The operation of a political party can be suspended or it can be cancelled for the following reasons:

- A. Nonfulfillment of the duties established in Article 8 of this law.
- B. Relations of the political party or its board of directors, acting on its behalf with organizations or institutions that support or advocate INTERVENTIONIST or IMPERIALIST principles or objectives against Nicaragua.
- C. The participation of the political party in activities against public order and the stability of the institutions of the National Reconstruction Government, which will not affect the corresponding legal action.
- D. By reason of the party's self-dissolution or its merger with another party.

Article 23. In the case of political parties forming part of the State Council, aside from those reasons outlined in the above article, the party's operations may be suspended or cancelled for the following reasons:

- A. By reason of its official withdrawal from the State Council.
- B. By virtue of those reasons outlined in article 5 of the general statutes of the State Council.

Article 24. The SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION of a political party shall be DECIDED by the CNPP. The proceedings may be initiated ex officio by the council or at the request of the Ministry of Justice, through the office of the attorney general of justice.

Article 25. Once the request for suspension or cancellation of a political party is received or the ex officio proceedings are initiated, the CNPP shall notify the party's legal representative within the next 3 days and it shall adopt a decision with a period of 5 days.

Article 26. Appeals against decisions issued by the CNPP regarding the suspension or cancellation of a political party shall be made to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction within the 5 days following notification. There shall be no appeals against decisions issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, not even that of an appeal for protection.

Decisions issued by the CNPP ordering the suspension or cancellation of a political party shall immediately produce the suspension of its operations. Decisions ordering cancellations shall be always passed on to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction for consultation and shall only be definitive when issued in the form of a decree.

Article 27. Decrees ordering the cancellation of a political party shall also order that its assets be passed on to the state's social welfare activities.

Article 28. Whenever the CNPP orders the cancellation of a political party, the latter may not be formed again under the same name, symbol or with the same board of directors.

Article 29. In the case of political parties forming part of the State Council, the provisions established in Article 5 of the General Statutes of the State Council shall be applied in accordance with legal procedures set forth in this law.

IX. General Provisions

Article 30. Common law provisions shall be applied in all cases not foreseen by this law.

Article 31. The State Council shall regulate this law.

X. Provisional Provisions

Article 32. Political parties currently forming part of the State Council in accordance with the fundamental statute and its amendments are hereby granted legal status by virtue of the mere promulgation of this law. Nevertheless, such parties shall be compelled to fulfill the requirements set forth in this law within a period of 6 months starting on the date the law goes into force, except in case of presentation of the evidence stipulated in paragraph B. of Article 17.

Article 33. Political groups which at the moment this law is promulgated have requested their incorporation to the State Council to the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction may continue to function as they have done until this date. These groups must file their application before the CNPP within 1 month following the publication of this law. This provision shall be valid until the CNPP decides on the corresponding application.

XI. Applicability of the Law

Article 34. This law shall go into force as of the date of its promulgation in the LA GACETA, the official newspaper.

Issued in the city of Managua, on the [blank space] day of the month of [blank space] of 1982. "Year of unity in the face of aggression" Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the State Council; Deputy Commander Rafael Solis Cerda, secretary of the State Council.

PARTY COMMENTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES BILL

PA010334 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Feb 82

[From the "Social Democracy in Action" feature, the Social Democratic Party roundtable -- live]

[Excerpts] (Mario Alfaro Alvarado -- moderator) Today we are going to discuss and comment on the political parties bill that a special commission appointed by the State Council has drafted. To begin with, this so-called political parties bill is exactly the opposite. It is a bill that goes against the best interests of the political parties. First of all, its statement of principles does not conform to democratic concepts and principles. Nowhere does the bill define the status and objectives of political parties. This alone makes the bill unacceptable. I am sure that the democratic parties will reject the bill. The Social Democratic Party will definitely reject the bill as it is. Let us hope the bill is not imposed on the people, as the FSLN has done with other bills. If the bill is passed as it is, or with some minor changes, the political parties will not be able to function as such. Maybe this is what they want and is why the bill has been drafted.

Perhaps the FSLN, the party in power, is also going to draft the government plan for the political parties to carry out. The idea is to have a single party, because as things are, the other political parties would just be doing what the FSLN orders.

The other political parties, the democratic parties, would not stand a chance to reach power. This is even more true because the bill does not even say anything about elections.

The Social Democratic Party believes that the political parties will not accept the invitation to discuss the bill, because we all know that the FSLN is going to pass the bill to suit its own interests. Even if the political parties decided to participate in the debates and vote against the bill, the FSLN would use the presence of the political parties to make its own propaganda in favor of its so-called political pluralism and it would tell the world that the bill was approved in the presence and participation of the political parties, in open debates, even if the parties voted against the bill.

My personal opinion is -- the Social Democratic Party still has not made an official statement -- that the political parties should not participate in the discussion of the bill. Let the Sandinists pass the bill the way that best suits them, because that is what they are going to do anyhow. Let them have the full responsibility of their actions.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON PDYR LEADER'S VISIT

EA270108 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] The joint communique on the visit of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the Republic of Nicaragua was issued today in Aden and Managua.

In this communique, Democratic Yemen and Nicaragua expressed their deep concern over the current situation in the Middle East and considered present developments a great threat to the security, sovereignty and stability of the region. The communique stressed their conviction that full and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people are the only means to a just peace in that part of the world. The two sides strongly condemned the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Nicaragua praised the activities of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in defense of the national interests of the Arab peoples and against imperialism, Zionism, reaction and the separate capitulatory agreements. Democratic Yemen and Nicaragua expressed their conviction that through joint struggle of the people and all progressive and democratic forces, new gains will be achieved to entrench the foundation of international security and peace by confronting interventionist policies, the creation of conflicts and the arms race pursued by the imperialists.

The two sides condemned U.S. policies aimed at setting up and using aggressive military bases in Diego Garcia, Berbera, Masirah Island and other countries with the aim of threatening the security, independence and sovereignty of the region's countries. The two sides strongly condemned the imperialist presence in the region.

The Nicaraguan side expressed appreciation for Democratic Yemen's invitation to a summit to be attended by the states of the gulf, peninsula, and the Horn of Africa for the removal of the foreign aggressive bases from the region. The communique expressed Nicaragua's support for the tripartite agreement between Democratic Yemen, the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and socialist Ethiopia to resist the imperialist and reactionary hostile conspiracies.

Nicaragua expressed its support for Democratic Yemen's efforts to achieve Yemeni unity on peaceful and democratic basis.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his delegation concluded their official and friendly visit to Nicaragua yesterday.

HAVANA REACTION TO REAGAN'S SPEECH BEFORE OAS

FL031435 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text of 3 March GRANMA editorial titled "Rhetoric of Futility" in response to President Reagan's Caribbean Basin initiative -- read by announcer]

[Text] The most notorious connotation arising from Mr Reagan's speech before the OAS^o last Wednesday is the reiteration of the U.S. Government's inability to foster solutions, or even to come close to an elementary understanding of the real problems troubling the Central American and Caribbean areas. Perhaps, future thinkers, if they decide to read it, will find in it still more, a demonstration of the empire's incurable decadence, a confirmation of the political sclerosis of the ultraright currently governing in the United States, a demonstration of how that ultraright attempts to capriciously replace realities with primitive and false schemes and arrogantly tries to ignore the true facts.

One does not have to go too far in the examination to realize that this imperialist group represents an involution of its class' own political thinking. More than 20 years ago, when the United States had reached the zenith of economic expansion of the postwar era, the then governing administration declared the adoption of the policy known as Alliance for Progress and announced the mobilization of 20 billion dollars worth of resources in 1 decade to fund an alleged capitalist development of the countries in Latin America. The U.S. Government then in power attempted in this manner to respond to the historic fact of the Cuban revolution, recognized the need for certain structural reforms, and understood that if some urgent changes were not carried out, the revolutionary processes would become uncontrollable. It then tried to offer a reformist alternative under the auspices of Yankee imperialism.

As is known, that effort ended without results. There was no development. There was no alliance and, least of all, progress for our countries. Far from it, the looting monopolies multiplied and the dependence and deformation of the Latin American economies was further accentuated. U.S. imperialism would not have become what it is today if the events had been different.

Now 2 decades later in the midst of a crisis which has no precedent in the past 50 years, Mr Reagan's plan for the poorer area on this continent is barely a bad caricature of that policy. In this program there is not the least reference to the need for a change in the degrading and unbearable semifeudal structures governing several Central American countries. There is not even a timid recognition of the terrifying conditions of hunger, illiteracy, lack of sanitation, backwardness and wretchedness affecting the peoples in the area. Least of all is there one single word of reprobation for the bloody tyrannies sowing terror in those lands. But, there is a publicly-voiced support for them, including them in the group of friendly governments which must be supported and helped without reserve.

With chauvinistic and imperial spirit, the only thing Mr Reagan says which is true is that the Caribbean region constitutes a vital, strategic and commercial artery for the United States. What a philosophy!

With profound concern one can note in this speech a return to such reactionary schemes as the stale and grotesque Monroe Doctrine, according to which we are granted a citizenship and a code of behavior whose approval and control is a prerogative of the Washington patriarchs. In the meantime, the cavernicolous formulas of the late Senator McCarthy reappear throughout the continent, which would be nothing more than a ridiculous exercise of ultraconservative nostalgia if they were not part of the revengeful platform of a fascist group which seems to believe it has been called upon to reorder the world and, with papal backing, decrees the extracontinental nature of the revolution and socialism.

The stubborn pretension of reversing the historic process by means of a counterrevolutionary and anticommunist crusade worldwide, which automatically identifies the United States with the most reactionary and oppressing forces in any country on earth, makes the present U.S. leaders incapable of assuming with realism the irreversible nature of the Cuban revolution and facing up to the dilemmas resulting from the clear and firm resolve of independence and social justice of the peoples of Nicaragua and Grenada, the people's insurgency of the Salvadoran people and the growing patriotic struggle of the people of Guatemala.

Reagan's prescription for the Central American and Caribbean economies would not have remedied anything, not even in 1882. To attempt today to solve the problems of underdevelopment by resorting to the elimination of certain tariff barriers, to the application of some fiscal incentives in favor of private and oligarchic sectors, and to the allurements of eventual transnational investments is an unrealizable mirage. The simplicity of the offer of a complementary grant for the present U.S. fiscal year is such that it amounts to 350 million dollars. A grant, which according to Mr Reagan, is meant to help the countries suffering especially difficult economic vicissitudes. An economist would call this proposal stingy, but the most elementary sense of respect for and solidarity with our brothers in Central America and the Caribbean does not permit us to remain silent before its cynical contents and the cruel joke that these crumbs represent.

Suffice to point out, reserving the right to take up this topic once again, that in 1979, according to a Yankee official's statement before the U.S. Congress joint economic committee, that country received from its investments abroad more than 100 million dollars daily, that is every 3 1/2 days the United States receives in profits from abroad the same quantity it now proposes for a 1 year initial project for Central America and the Caribbean.

How many billions of dollars fatten every year the empire's strongboxes as a result of the sweat and extreme poverty of the workers in the banana and sugar plantations, in the copper and bauxite mines, in the factories and tourist centers for the rich owned by Yankee investors, with the only exception of Cuba in Central America and the Caribbean?

This year's military budget of the Republican administration will surpass the 200 billion dollars and the arms spiral threatens to provoke a deficit in the federal budget amounting to more than 100 billion dollars in 1983. For example, just the MX intercontinental missile system has a price tag of 50 billion dollars.

Even if the 350 million additional dollars proposed by Reagan are added, the White House will only invest in the Caribbean Basin and Central America less than one fifth the value of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, which amounts to 2 billion dollars. Meanwhile, the process of approval of the elimination of tariff barriers proposed by Reagan must be carried out by the Congress. This promises to become a major controversy with the interests of the U.S. consortia, which would be hypothetically affected. Also in sight are the reactions of similar procedures in the hemisphere which would be excluded from the benefits of these advantages. It was immediately learned that with respect to the access of sugar to U.S. markets, limitations will be established to the promises made by the White House chief.

The meager benefits of the plan in general -- if there are any for the great masses of workers and peasants of the poorer and more backward countries in the region -- not only remain to be seen but also the viability of the plan itself, which is plagued with inconsistencies with Mr Reagan's philosophy aimed at the postponed reactivation of the U.S. economy.

As can be appreciated, the group of measures proposed by Reagan is mainly directed at increasing Yankee investments in the Caribbean Basin, at imposing on area governments guarantees and privileges and for those investments, and at luring toward that policy some sectors of native capitalists, those more closely linked to the interests of Yankee monopolies.

In essence, it is a matter of intensifying the penetration and domination of U.S. capitalism and accentuating those countries' economic dependence on the United States.

Who can venture to say that the serious economic and social problems of the region can be solved in this manner, problems which originated from the dependence and subordination imposed by Yankee imperialism over decades? Imperialism is in no condition to offer solutions to the problems being faced by the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean. It could never do it because it is precisely imperialism which is responsible for them, which has created them, perpetuated them and aggravated them.

In the Yankee plan, there is no generosity of philanthropy, not even an attempt to make secondary concessions or efforts aimed at seeking palliatives in the face of the dramatic reality facing the region's countries as a direct consequence of imperialist spoilation and the profound economic crisis of the capitalist world. This plan is part of the aggressive, interventionist scheme that the present Yankee administration is attempting to carry out to overthrow the progressive governments, to check the advance of the emancipating movement, to reinforce its economic domination and to subject under its rule still more of Central America and the Caribbean.

Consistent with this, 60 million dollars will be given for military expenses as a supplementary aid to regimes which are brutally massacring tens of thousands of American men, women, old people and children. These repressive governments will also benefit from the additional aid of the Reagan administration for a group of area countries.

In addition to this, the U.S. President stated with threatening and somewhat enigmatic tone that "We will do everything prudent and necessary to guarantee peace and security in the Caribbean region." Those who wrote the speech added this statement in the context of a quick reference to the responsibilities of reciprocal defense contained in the so-called Rio Treaty, TIAR, [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty] of 1947 which served as a coverup for the Yankee invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 and which today, as can be seen, is used once again as a shield for intervening actions against area peoples.

Reagan's declaration is significant because he expresses strong support for the so-called democratic community in Central America, which is formed by the regimes of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica, as well as his announcement that he will work closely with other interested democracies, both inside and outside of the region, to maintain and preserve our common democratic values. The U.S. chief of state also stated that he will ask Congress for a greater security assistance to help those he calls friendly countries. No one should make a mistake with respect to the dangerous contents of those statements.

It is clear that in his speech Reagan is insinuating the possibility of a collective military action against the countries which have liberated themselves or are struggling to liberate themselves from Washington's tutelage. His warning that he will do whatever is prudent and necessary for the purpose of guaranteeing what he and his advisors understand to be peace and security in the Caribbean region confirm this. In that manner, his real purpose is clear, which is no other than to continue to carry out his plans aimed at destroying the revolutions in Nicaragua and Grenada, to drown in blood and fire the struggle of the peoples of Guatemala and El Salvador and to continue his aggressive escalation against Cuba. Anything else is nothing but vulgar rubbish and low-level politicking. More than ever before, this forces us to remain alert, ready and vigilant.

It seems to be timely for the advisers of the White House chief to inform him that there are other concepts supported by unquestionable moral principles as to what is prudent and necessary for peace and security in the region. What is prudent? To pay attention to the proposals made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo with the respect and seriousness they deserve.

In a courageous speech on 21 February in Nicaragua's capital, he made a profound, calm and correct analysis of the situation in Central America and the Caribbean and, at the same time, proposed ways to solve the more pressing conflicts via negotiations and not through a confrontation of unforeseeable international consequences.

What is prudent? To remember Lopez Portillo's warning when he stated that an intervention in Central America and the Caribbean would represent a gigantic historic mistake, aside from provoking a continental convulsion and the emergence of a profound anti-U.S. feeling among the best men in all of Latin America. What is prudent? To fully appreciate the authoritative opinion of Mexico's president when he said that the wind blowing throughout the area does not represent a threat to the U.S. national security and, instead, the risk of historic condemnation for violently infringing upon the right of self-determination of the peoples.

What is necessary? To pay the attention that the Mexican president's proposals deserve to develop mechanisms of negotiation which would lead to a climate of detente in the area. Cuba did not delay in its response to that worthy and bright posture. In a message sent by President Fidel Castro to the Mexican head of state, he stressed: You can count on Cuba's Government and people and my personal commitment for seeking ways to eliminate tensions and opening the way to the democratic and peaceful solution of the agonizing problems burdening the majority of the countries in the area.

The overwhelming majority of world public opinion, including UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, has expressed support for this worthy Mexican initiative. In his speech, Mr Reagan did not even mention the proposals made by Lopez Portillo. Perhaps, in a supreme effort to inject some Latin American greatness and real resonance into the text written for Mr Reagan, his advisers placed the president in the unusual paradox of invoking -- for the benefit of a plan of Yankee neocolonialism -- the name of the most advanced and universal Latin American thinker of the 19th century; the one who understood with greatest precision, keenness and historic farsightedness the danger of the U.S. transformation into the oppressing superpower it has become, and the one who devoted his remaining political and intellectual energy, up to the last hours before his heroic fall in combat, to block, in time, with Cuba's independence, the country to the north from spreading throughout the Antilles and falling with that added strength upon our American lands. Reagan, with blatant cynicism, had the bad taste to, as if grasping at straws, refer to one of Marti's thoughts; men march in two groups, those who love and build, those who hate and destroy.

A few months before, the Yankee imperialists had rudely insulted Marti's name by announcing a future official, subversive type radio station against Cuba which would bear the name of our national hero. Now, he is once again insulted in the voice of the president of the empire, whose monstrous entrails Marti discovered.

It is true, as Jose Marti said nearly a century ago, men are divided in two groups, those who love and build and those who hate and destroy. Can Mr Reagan, the chief of the most powerful and aggressive imperialist state on earth, creator of the most fabulous arms race known to history, promoter in El Salvador of the murder of tens of thousands of men, women and children, producer of the neutron bomb, a friend of Pinochet, of the South African racists, of the Zionist aggressors and of all having a similar disposition in the world, consider himself a member of the group of those who love and build? Doubtlessly, the martyr of Dos Rios [Cuban battle in the war against Spain] would have known without hesitation in which group to place him and the ultrareactionary and war-mongering trend represented today by the Yankee rulers.

On another subject, Marti cannot be placed at the level of the awkward demagogic tricks of the imperialists. He is too big to be touched by hypocritical references and theatrical invocations. The Yankee rulers' rhetoric of futility cannot look for support in his work. He simply and really is in the other group.

MORA HERMAN CRITICIZES REAGAN LEADERSHIP

FL040230 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] The editorial in the newspaper GRANMA today analyzing the speech made before the OAS by the U.S. President Ronald Reagan begins with two statements which are very true; The inability of the present Yankee administration to understand what is happening in our continent, and the political sclerosis of the U.S. ultraright. With our commentary we want to refer to some events which confirm completely these conclusions.

Recently, President Reagan was accused of making a series of mistakes during a press conference. According to reporters, Reagan showed ignorance regarding such important topics in the country as unemployment, the interest rates, the nation's budget figures and the amount of military expenditures. The president also made serious mistakes regarding foreign policy, confusing the Vietnamese hero Ho Chi Minh with the South Vietnamese puppet Ngo Dinh Diem, and when he said it was President John F. Kennedy who sent the first Yankee Marines to Vietnam, when the truth is that the decision was made by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963.

The White House admitted that the President had made those mistakes, but it described them as insignificant. At the end of February the New York TIMES said in an article that mistakes, incoherence and political disaster were becoming more and more the characteristics of the Reagan government. The article added that many journalists were afraid of what they saw on observing the president, since they were aware that they were before a man who acts without having the true information, who has an anecdotal vision of the world, who gives simplistic answers to complicated questions, and that it is very alarming to accept the fact that the enormous U.S. power is in the hands of such a person.

However, it is not just a case of President Reagan, but also of a large part of his advisers. Very well known are the sharp remarks and ignorance of Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the hysterical anticommunism of Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, and the attitudes of other officials of the present U.S. administration. Journalist James Reston has called Haig a psychopath, and others have raised doubts regarding his mental ability. In the U.S. press there have been articles which compare the style of political leadership of Hitler, Goebbels and Goering, the highest leaders of Nazi fascism; and what the team headed by Reagan, -- to which belong Haig, Weinberger and Allen, the last one the man from the CIA [as heard] -- is doing today.

All this justifies the concern of those who consider that it is highly dangerous to peace in the world that people with those characteristics can have in their hands such a great power referring to means of mass destruction. One cannot turn one's back to reality as the U.S. Government is doing, nor can this reality be substituted with obsolete and false schemes. Attempting to revive the Monroe Doctrine and the big stick policy now is a political course destined to the most resounding failure.

HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH HUNGARY SIGNED

FL011443 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] A health research work and cooperation agreement between the health ministries of Cuba and Hungary for the present 5-year period has been signed here by Health Ministers Sergio del Valle and Emil Schultheisz. The agreement establishes the exchange of scientific information and experience through visiting specialists. After signing the cooperation agreement, the two ministers affirmed that this agreement increases to a great degree mutual assistance in the important area of public health and strengthens friendly bilateral relations.